As early as the 9th century, a programmable music sequencer was invented by the Persian Banu Musa brothers, who described an automated mechanical flute player in the Book of Ingenious Devices.  
Their jobs usually involve:  
 Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language.  
To produce machine code, the source code must either be compiled or transpiled.  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages.  
For this purpose, algorithms are classified into orders using so-called Big O notation, which expresses resource use, such as execution time or memory consumption, in terms of the size of an input.  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.  
Proficient programming thus usually requires expertise in several different subjects, including knowledge of the application domain, specialized algorithms, and formal logic.